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LB 305, 543

provide. The constitution requires that we provide public education. This money should not go into these private and parochial schools. People like to make a distinction by saying it's going to the student and not to the school; that is a phoney distinction, we all know it. It's what is known at law as a legal fiction. We know the goal is to benefit these private schools. If the goal were not to benefit the private schools and to benefit the students, we would show more concern for the students, not just when we talk about education but all the time. Who are the ones you all want to give a record for consuming any amount of alcohol? Students. Who are the ones you want to be able to give a ticket for driving with any amount of alcohol in their system, any amount? Students. So don't tell me when you're waging a war against students all the time that this money going to these private and parochial schools is designed to help the students, that is not what it's for, it's to help these schools that are private and parochial. You show too much hatred and contempt for students all the time. LB 305 is not designed to help students. I've told you time after time about the problems that students confront, but all you can whine about are the teachers. When we talk about aid to education, it's not aid to education in the sense of what the children are to be taught in school, it's aid to schools. That's why you talk about a school formula, school aid, not the children, not the students. So I am not snookered when people tell me that this money is not going to private and parochial schools; it's not going anywhere else. Senator Brashear had mentioned that you created the PEAP Program as a state to equalize. The state is under no obligation to equalize anything when it comes to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...these private schools. They exist because people chose to organize them as an alternative to public school education. If the public school system said that if a child is a Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian or any other religion, that child cannot attend public schools, that would be unconstitutional. But presume that a legislature did that. On that basis you could then say, well, you got to have some kind of school for these kids to go to. So then you give them a school. That is not the situation here. They can go to public